U.S.FOREST SERVICE ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

Chief February 27, 1947

P. V. WOODREAD, Regional Forester, By

S, CONTROL, Insect, R-3 - Annual Report - C.Y. 1946

The following report of insect conditions in this Region is based on the Supervisors' annual reports and the observations of Forest officers in the course of regular travel.

No control projects were carried on during calendar year 1946.

Barkbeetles (Dendroctonus, Ips and Pityophthorus)

Dendroctonus: Damage from Dendroctonus beetles was reported as normal for all forests. Those forests where Dendroctonus infestations have been epidemic in recent years now report conditions as normal on these areas.

Ips: Abnormal damage by Ips was reported only by the Prescott and Santa Fe Forests. A moderate to heavy infestation was reported in T 18 N, R 4 E on the Prescott. It is believed the trees attacked were weakened by smoke from the Copper smelter at Clarkdale.

An Ips outbreak has occurred on the south portion of the Jemez Division of the Santa Fe Forest, which Doctor Wygant states is the worst he has ever seen. The loss on San Juan Mesa has been estimated as 300 merchantable trees per section. This average would also apply over portions of the Bear Springs and La Jara drainages. A total of from 8 to 10 sections are infested. Even more alarming are the terrific losses in reproduction of trees from 1 to 10 inches in diameter over a larger area. The entire San Juan Mesa is blotched by areas of from 2 to 3 acres of dying and dead reproduction. The pattern of kill, either in the reproduction or merchantable timber, does not tie in with slash areas resulting from recent logging. Virgin areas and areas logged from three to five years ago are equally hard hit. Dr. Wygant considered the extreme drought of last spring as the primary cause of these infestations and the Ips beetles as secondary. He stated that with favorable moisture in 1947, we could expect the epidemic to die out rapidly. No control measures were recommended by Dr. Wygant.

Pityophthorus: The infestation of Pityophthorus, first reported in 1943 on the Luna District of the Apache Forest near the Arizona-New Mexico State line, has apparently subsided and normal conditions have been restored.

Pinon Pine Tip Moth (Dioryctria sp.)

The infestation of this moth on the Carson apparently has subsided, as no reference has been made to it in the 1946 report.

Great Basin Tent Caterpillar (Malacosoma fragilis)

Defoliators have been unusually active in aspen stands on the Apache Forest, but apparently the trees have survived the attack. Less activity by this caterpillar on the Carson during 1946. On the Cibola the caterpillars have increased on the area infested in 1945, south and east of Mt. Taylor, and on most of the aspen stands on the north slope of Mt. Taylor. Many of the trees were completely defoliated, but apparently none of them were killed.

Matsucoccus Scale

The Prescott Forest reports the worst damage yet recorded by the Matsucoccus scale during 1946. Many of the tree tops have died. No damage by this insect reported by the Lincoln.

Needle Miner (Recuraria sp.)

A needle miner infestation on pinon pine on large areas near Ojo Caliente on the Carson Forest was reported. This was followed by an Ips attack which killed many of the weaker trees. Dr. Wygant examined these infestations in September and secured samples for identification. Some damage to pinon pine near Ryan on the Kaibab Forest was reported, and it was thought to be caused by a needle miner.

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The Cibola Forest reports a large number of ponderosa and pinon pine trees have died on the Red Rock District. The area affected covers approximately 1200 acres and has been going on for a number of years. Seedlings, mature and vigorously growing trees are attacked; 20 percent of the trees have been killed. While the cause has not yet been determined, it is believed by local officers to be caused primarily by a disease, although some work by Ips and flathead borers is indicated. Individual needles apparently are attacked first, but eventually the whole tree is killed. Plans have been made to have Dr. Lake S. Gill of the Bureau of Forest Pathology & Plant Quarantine examine the affected areas as soon as weather conditions permit.

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Spruce Budworm (Cacoecia (Archips) fumiferana Clem.)

Light damage by the spruce budworm on the Cibola and Santa Fe Forests was reported. The spruce budworm continues active on the Carson Forest. Heavy defoliation on white fir, Douglas-fir, corkbark fir and blue spruce, reported by the Rangers for the same areas as last year. In addition, infestations reached epidemic proportions in Hondo, Felipito and La Jara Canyons on the Vallecitos District and in San Leonardo Canyon on the Rio Pueblo District. Infestations in Borracho Canyon on the Vallecitos and Alamitos Canyon on the Rio Pueblo District were inspected by Dr. Wygant. He stated that the heavy defoliation of current growth indicated a very severe infestation.

Aspen Leaf Roller (Archips conflictana Walker)

No damage by the aspen leaf roller reported by the Cibola, and damage by this insect reported as decreasing on the Carson.

Except for the larger infestations noted above, damage by insects during 1946, in Region 3 can generally be considered normal.

Dr. N. G. Wygant in September examined the heavily infested areas on the Carson, Santa Fe and Apache Forests. He did not recommend any direct control on any of the Forests.

WTDoherty:ASG

/s/ REED H. JENSEN

cc-Dr. Wygant